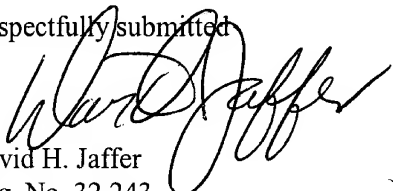


REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect for continued prosecution the Group II claims (claims 13-20), without traverse. By virtue of this amendment, claims 13-20 are the only claims pending. An action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please note that the specification and claims for this application are identical to the specification for 09/617,457, filed July 17, 2000, which is being examined by Examiner Li B. Zhen, Group Art Unit 2126. The attorney who filed these applications is no longer with our firm, so I do not know why the application was filed twice. Both applications have restriction requirements. We have elected claims 13-20 in this application and claims 1-12 in application serial number 09/617,457. The Office may wish to consolidate examination of these applications.

Respectfully submitted


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Date:  5-11-04

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 11, 2004, by Diana Dearing.

